

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 2.

AURELIA, IOWA, NOVEMBER, 1896.

No. 9

SHIP YOUR POULTRY AND EGGS

—TO—

Sprague Commission Co.,
CHICAGO

NOW READY

To offer birds of the year in the following varieties:

Black Langshans,
White Wyandottes,
Barred Ply. Rocks,
Game Bantams.

Prices: Cockerels \$2 to \$10.
Pullets \$1 to \$4.

CIRCULAR FREE.

G. A. C. CLARKE.

Pine Tree Poultry Farm,
Le Mars, Iowa.

Light Brahmas, Felch Strain.

and Barred Ply. Rocks

Chicks hatched with hens in February, March, April and May; they are of mammoth size and have extra fine plumage. I will sell my surplus stock at prices that are right. No culls for sale at any price.

N. V. E. BALLARD, - Onawa, Iowa.

Buff Wyandottes EXCLUSIVELY

Three Grand Pens

Stock as Good as the Best.
Young Birds For Sale.

Write for what you want. If I have not got it I will tell you so.

P. D. WINE, Aurelia, Iowa.

Standard Buff LEGHORNS

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large, 4-page '96 circular free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks, and prize winners, scoring 94½ by Felch to 93½ by Drevenstedt. Also Black Javas and Columbian Wyandottes. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,
Battle Creek, Michigan.

Des Moines Valley Poultry Yards

A. H. LANE, Proprietor.
Keosauqua, Iowa.

Eggs from high class Light Brahmas, P. Cochins, Barred P. Rocks, R. C. B. Leghorns and Black Minorcas. Circular free.

200 Rose Comb Brown Leghorn Hens —200 FINE CHICKS—

My Leghorns are Winners.
THEY WILL SUIT YOU.

A Better dog than the Bull Terrier hasn't been discovered. Fine litter of pups very cheap.

Don't pay any more than I ask for Dogs or Leghorns.

FASHION KENNELS,
Hawarden, Iowa

Buff Plymouth Rock COCKERELS

The parent stock of these birds made a clean sweep last season at the Illinois State Fair, Bloomington and Illinois State Poultry Shows, and at Jackson, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Write for description and prices.

A. L. BELEW,
Aurelia, Iowa.



CUSTOM MADE SUITS

with privilege of express. Shipped C. O. D. We import our own goods and save you half of Local Tailors prices. Our workmanship, trimmings and fit cannot be excelled.

Satisfaction guaranteed. Quality cannot be surpassed. Express Prepaid to any part of the United States. Send for full line of samples, catalogue and measurement blanks, with tape measure Free. THE PROGRESS TAILORING CO., MENTION DEPT. 11, MEDINAH TEMPLE, CHICAGO.

Mansfield Poultry Company,

Breeders of thoroughbred Silver Laced Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, Single Comb Brown Leghorns, Single Comb White Leghorns, Pekin Ducks and Bronze Turkeys. Send for catalogue.

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

T. C. Crepps,

—BREEDER OF—

Barred Plymouth Rocks Exclu'y.

Cockerels one dollar each, two for \$1.75. Eggs \$1.00 for 15; \$1.50 for 30.

T. C. CREPPS, Aurelia, Iowa

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Do You Want Eggs

For hatching from good birds of standard quality and large size? My yards are mated to give satisfaction. Send in your order now. Eggs \$1.50 per setting.

MRS. H. E. SANBORN,
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RUTHERFORD BROS.

BREEDERS OF

* White Wonders.

The hardiest of all fowls, and the best general purpose breed for the north. One or two good cockerels for sale at \$3 each.

RUTHERFORD BROTHERS,
Aurelia, Iowa.



HIGH ARM SINGER FREE!

any time in ten years if any of its parts break. We are selling HIGH ARM SINGER SEWING MACHINES, with complete set of attachments, five drawer cabinet, like new, guaranteed 10 years, for \$12.50 Shipped anywhere to anybody, subject to examination, and may be returned at our expense if unsatisfactory. Catalogue for a two cent stamp.

CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO.,
215-218 S. Clinton Street, Chicago, Ill.

THE Leghorn Home,

MARRAIM PARK, MINN.

S. C. W. Leghorns S. C. B.
EXCLUSIVELY.

Winners wherever shown. Send for circular No. 2.

Leghorn Incubator.

Our Own Make.

Constructed on the latest and Most Scientific Principles. Guaranteed to do the work or money refunded. Most simple and accurate regulator of heat yet invented. Made, used and sold by practical poultrymen. Send for Circular No. 21.

Agents Wanted.

FOR SALE!

Golden Wyandottes,

And Golden Seabright Bantams. Won at Wisconsin State Fair 1896, 1st on Wyandotte cockerel, 2nd on pullet. First on Seabright cockerel, 2nd on pullet and cockerel. Price on first prize Wyandotte cockerel \$10.00; first prize Seabright cockerel \$5.00. Other males for sale for less money. Correspondence solicited. Eggs in season \$1.50 sitting.

J. J. BEAN,
Abbotsford, Wisconsin.

HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM—
With the **MODEL** **Excelsior Incubator.**
Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher. Lowest priced first-class Hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL,**
114 to 123 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.
Circulars free. Send 6c. for Illus. Catalogue.

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WIRE ROPE SELVAGE.
McMULLEN'S
Poultry, Farm, Garden, Cemetery, Lawn, Railroad and Rabbit Fencing.

Thousands of miles in use. Catalogue Free. Freight Paid. Prices Low.

The McMULLEN WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO.
114, 116, 118 and 120 N. Market St., CHICAGO, ILL.

WIRE NETTING.

If you want THE BEST, made with three strand selvage and heavily galvanized AFTER weaving, "We are the people." Price per roll of 150 running feet:

MESH.	WIRE.	12-in	18-in	24-in	36-in	48-in	60-in	72-in
2 in	No. 19	.70	1.00	1.25	1.95	2.60	3.30	3.95.
1 in	No. 20	1.45	2.15	2.85	4.35	5.75	7.25	8.65.

Discount of 5 per cent on 5 rolls; 10 per cent on 10 rolls. Freight prepaid up to 40c per 100 lbs. on 5 or more rolls. This will cover cost of freight to most points east of the Mississippi.

Poultry Supplies.

We are America's Headquarters. Largest Stock. Lowest Prices. Prompt Shipments.

Want Our Catalogue? Is's a pretty book of 80 pages. Finely Illustrated. A 2-cent stamp gets it.

GEO. J. NISSLY, Saline, Mich.

GREER'S BARRED Plymouth Rocks



Silver Laced Wyandottes,

AND

Brown and Buff Leghorns,

Are winners at the Best Poultry Shows. Good and extra good birds for sale at moderate prices. No culls offered for sale. I want them at home to flavor noodles. Circular Free.

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.

White Plymouth Rocks.

ALFRED ANDREY, CHOICE STOCK
Aurelia, Iowa.

I breed White Plymouth Rocks exclusively, and have not spared expense in introducing into my flock the best blood obtainable.

BEAN'S BUFFS!

Not Better,
But as Good as the est,

Is what we claim for our fowls, and our show record for the past three years fully substantiates that claim. Not premiums won at county fairs, but at leading shows and state fairs. Thirty-four premiums at the Minnesota State Fair, September, 1896, is our latest triumph. Selected breeding and exhibition birds for sale. Prices low, quality considered. If you are after 50c or \$1 birds please don't write. We use the hatchet on that kind of stock. We have for sale A FULL LINE OF POULTRY SUPPLIES, and please remember we will not be undersold on this class of goods. Send for our 40-page solid buff catalogue. It's a beauty.

W. M. EAN, Lock Box 72.

Anoka Buff Poultry Yards,
ANOKA, MINN.

B U F F
Plymouth Rocks
Brahmas
Wyandottes
S C Leghorns
R C Leghorns
Cochin Bantams

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

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The Owner Knows Best.

The keeper of poultry will find it to his advantage to build his poultry house according to his own judgment, and not be influenced to any great extent by what the carpenter may say about it. Carpenters have completely spoiled many poultry houses which cost enough money to be buildings of the most serviceable kind. And they were good carpenters, too, but they lacked the special knowledge required to construct a poultry house. The majority of carpenters will run the walls up too high. They want the structure to appear well proportioned, and if it were being put up solely with a view to appearances their ideas about it would be exactly right. These high walls are a useless expense. But that is not the worst of it. The hens are better off in a low roofed building. They will be more comfortable and will give better results in the way of eggs. This is a fact which has been confirmed by the experience of nearly everyone who has given much attention to poultry keeping. The house should be just high enough to enable the owner to comfortably do his work inside of it. The highest point of the roof of one of our poultry houses is ten feet from the floor, and this house, though as close and warm as it is possible to make it, is the next thing to a failure as a place to keep laying hens in winter. We shall not build a poultry house in future which will be more than six feet high at any point.

Two Males to a Pen,

Two male birds to a pen will tend in a great measure to solve the problem of fertile eggs. This has reference to a pen of a size corresponding to the capacities of one male. Favoriteism often exists to a greater extent than is suspected, and this is one of the surest ways of overcoming the effects of it. The two birds should never be allowed the liberty of the pen at the same time.

One male is better than two if they are both to be turned loose in the enclosure and allowed to struggle and fight for the mastery. They should be given possession on alternate days. It is not a very troublesome matter to go into the house at night and lift the bird from the perch and settle another in its place. During the day the bird that is being given his furlough should be confined in a comfortable, well lighted pen entirely out of sight of the hens. Usually there is no lack of good males, and we believe it will always pay to set aside a sufficient number of them for use in the manner above described. The extra trouble will not be considered by the breeder who sees in the plan a promise of an increase of fertile eggs when the hatching season arrives.

Importance of Grit.

The breeder of poultry may have a good warm house, plenty of feed of the right variety and given in the proper proportion, but if he does not supply his fowls with grit his poultry keeping the coming winter will come far short of the success that it is possible for him to make of it. It is hard to convince some people that grit is a necessity. Because the fowls will manage to exist without it, the owners think they can just as well save themselves this item of expense. But fowls will not be at their best without grit, and he who fails to supply them with it makes a serious mistake. If one has the time for doing it, it will be cheaper for him to pound up the stone and crockery than to buy the manufactured article; but the fowls must have grit in some shape during the winter if a full supply of eggs is expected.

Baby Them.

We have mentioned it before, perhaps several times, but it will bear repeating: don't compel the half or two-third grown pullets to dwell in the same

winter coop with the full grown stock. Next spring after the older hens have laid out their clutch of eggs and have become broody, these pullets will be in full laying and the main reliance for the later hatches. You will appreciate their value then, and will congratulate yourself upon the wisdom you displayed when you decided to give them a chance to make something of themselves. Give these timid little pullets a good warm pen to themselves and treat them exceedingly well. If this is done they can be transferred to other houses in February to take the places of the hens which by that time will have been removed to the hatching room. If it is intended to make them struggle for their living in the same coop with the older birds, it will be better to sell them now for what they will bring. More than half of them will perish during the winter, and those that survive will not be worth a nickle apiece by spring.

Do Your Own Shipping.

Ship your market poultry. Don't sell to a traveling buyer if you have anything over two dozen fowls to send to market. Obtain the address of some reliable commission house and before shipping write to the firm describing what you have to dispose of and asking when to send it and in what shape it should be shipped. Information of this kind will be given willingly by the commission house, and it will always prove of advantage to the shipper. This writer has profited by the advice of these people often enough to make him feel safe in recommending it to others. The commission merchant has an intimate knowledge of the demands of the market. It is to his interest to give his patrons the benefit of this knowledge, as he thereby increases his prospect of securing their future business. There are snide commission houses; but it is the shipper's own fault if he falls into the hands of a house of that kind.

Should Use Incubators.

Every poultry breeder who wants to make the best use of his opportunities should be the possessor of an incubator and brooder. This refers especially to the north. It is important that the greater proportion of the chicks should be brought out early in the spring, and it is an uncertain business for one to place his entire dependence upon the hens at that season of the year. There will be broody hens even in mid winter, but they cannot be had in sufficient numbers for the purpose desired.

The time to buy an incubator is in the fall and early winter, several months before it will be needed. The purchaser should give himself a little time to learn something about operating the machine. He should make several experimental hatches before it is put to the test at its full capacity. Excellent incubators and brooders can now be obtained for very little money. Every northern breeder who rears two hundred chicks or more will be fully paid for his incubator the first year.

The farm flocks, as a usual thing, consist of too many late hatched birds. They do not obtain their growth before cold weather, and consequently do not begin to lay till spring. They make no return for the feed and care they receive during the winter. The spring is far advanced before they have laid out a clutch of eggs and become broody. This makes the laying stock again late for the following season, and so it continues from year to year. The remedy is to obtain an incubator and set it going the last half of February, and have the chicks all out by the last of April. These chicks will be profitable winter layers if preparation is made to properly house and care for them during cold weather.

We desire to have it understood that it requires study, patience and labor to rear chicks artificially. The individual who is not willing to practice all these had better not put any money in appliances for that purpose. We shall go farther and say that such a person had better give up trying to rear poultry in any manner, and seek a business better suited to his indolent nature. But the successful management of these machines is not a task which will seriously burden any man or woman of active mind and industrious habits. The household of every farmer contains

someone who can safely be entrusted with their care. As a matter of fact they are coming into common use on the farms, and it is seldom that they are laid aside where they have once been put to trial. Anybody in the northern states who is trying to make money by keeping poultry is sadly handicapped so long as the hatching is done wholly with hens.

Roup in the South.

The common belief is that the roup is a disease which is almost wholly confined to the north, but it appears that poultry raisers in the far south have as much occasion to fear it as those living in a colder climate. A lady in Mexico writes to the Poultry Keeper that one of the greatest difficulties which the poultryman has to contend with in that country is the roup. Owing to the heat it is necessary to confine the fowls to open sheds at night, and the winds which blow over them at night bring on the roup in its worst form. These winds though violent are not cold, but their effect upon the flock appears to be about the same as those we have in the north during the coldest part of the year.

We very much doubt if any part of the south offers better opportunities to the poultryman than the north. The expense of maintaining a flock in the north is greater owing to the character of buildings required, but the product generally sells at a higher figure, and the losses through disease are not necessarily any heavier. People who make a failure of poultry keeping in the north would not have their chances of success improved by removing to the south.

In Winter Quarters.

The young stock should now all be comfortably housed. This does not mean that the doors and windows should be tightly closed at night, but everything should be in shape for doing so at an hour's notice. But the birds should be protected from the raw night winds. During the pleasant part of the day the birds may be permitted to go out on the range, but at night they should be securely under cover. The difficulty about this plan is to get them to return to the house which is to be their winter home. The only course left to the poultryman is to go out and catch them all and carry them there several nights in succession and keep them housed till

the middle of the forenoon, giving them a good breakfast in the scratching pen before allowing them to leave the building. The task will be easier if for the first two days they are not let out till about sundown, a watch being kept upon the flock to keep it together, and to see that all return to the house an hour later. This is a tedious business, but patient persistence in this kind of work for a few days will be the saving of much time and worry to the owner later on.

The hens and fully matured pullets may just as well be put in the yards and made to remain there. But the stock which is not yet grown will be benefited by the greater exercise and more varied diet of the range. Everything should be in readiness, however, for restricting their liberty during bad days and, in fact, everyday, until the sun has melted the frost from the ground, and taken the chill out of the morning air.

The Poultry Remedy Company, of Tiffin, Ohio, whose advertisement appears elsewhere in these columns, is building up a large business on the merits of their goods. Buyers will find nothing on the market more reliable than are these remedies.

Butter Making—Money Making—Your Chance.

From The Journal.

A NEW INVENTION that will be a great money maker for those who are selling goods, has just been put out by The Queen Butter Maker Co., of Cincinnati, who have patented a churn that will make butter in two minutes. We have watched the process; it is marvelous. The cream is placed in the churn and a few turns of a large wheel will separate the butter, and it appears on the surface all gathered. It is the most wonderful machine that has ever been invented and that it will be a tremendous seller anybody can see, and our readers should secure the agency at once. Everybody who keeps a cow must have one of these machines. No more standing an hour and a half or two hours over a churning. Anyone who is out of employment should not miss the opportunity as it is a pleasure to sell what everyone wants to buy. All you need to do is to make butter on churning day, and everyone will be sure to buy. In one neighborhood from twenty to thirty churns can easily be sold and the profit on these to agents will easily give them \$150 per month. Write The Queen Butter Maker Co., of 33 East 3rd St., Cincinnati, for circulars and get the agency at once, as some one may step in and your chance may be lost. Chances do not come every day of this sort.

Economical Feeding.

Our observation has led us to believe that the majority of flocks are kept at two great an expense. The owners have it in their power to materially lessen the cost of the feed without any injurious effect upon the profits. There is too much grain feeding, and not enough vegetable food and cheap animal matter. We hear a great deal about giving good attention to the flock. The meaning which is put upon this by many is to feed with an unstinted hand. The consequence is that the flocks are overfed with concentrated foods under the mistaken idea that this is good feeding.

The true meaning of good feeding is variety. Excessive grain feeding leads to more than half the evils which disappoint the hopes and aims of poultry breeders. The hen is at the highest state of health and thrift in the spring of the year when she is at liberty to pluck her fill of grass and other green growths just freshly sprung from the ground. Upon this alone she will thrive and perform all the functions of her nature, though experience has taught us that she is none the worse for a moderate allowance of grain. But an exclusive vegetable ration is better than a ration wholly composed of grain.

Abundance of green food can be had for winter use for almost nothing. Cabbage, turnips, beets, clover dried or in the state of ensilage, cost only the labor required to grow and harvest them. There should be an abundance of this sort of food stored away in the fall. The hens cannot be given too much of it in connection with a limited grain ration. The expense of keeping the flock will be reduced fully one-half if they are given all of it that they will consume, and the hens will be in better condition and give more satisfactory returns in the way of eggs. It is surprising at what little expense a flock can be maintained by making preparations in season for carrying it through the winter by this manner of feeding.

Grain is the lazy man's feed. While this statement may awake resentment in the minds of some, we shall offer no excuse for making it. The majority of people who feed grain day after day without change, do so because it is the kind of feed which can be given with the least trouble and labor. The important thing with those who want to

make a success with poultry is to learn how to keep their flocks in the best condition at the least expense. While it is right to spare themselves unnecessary labor, they should not try to dodge the labor when they can make it save them a large part of the cost of supporting the flock.

Prejudice.

There is nothing in this world so hard to fight against as prejudice. It is not effected by argument or reason. It simply plants itself like an oyster on a rock and there it stays.

We are acquainted with people who are admirably situated for keeping poultry. They have the necessary ground for the yards, and it is not being put to any profitable use. Their occupation is such as to leave them ample time for giving the needed attention to the flock, and the money which they might obtain in that manner would be a welcome addition to their income. They are people of industrious habits; they are not afraid of work. But they are not the possessors of any poultry. Ask them why that neglected and overgrown corner of their grounds is not occupied by a flock of fine poultry, and you get the contemptuous reply: "Blast the chickens! I wouldn't have one of the miserable things on the place."

Some of these same people will keep a pig, and seem to take genuine pleasure in attending to his wants. They will fondle his dirty back and sides with their hands, and gaze upon him with pride and admiration as he lies half submerged in the slime of his wallow. But their hearts are full of bitterness towards the hen—a clean bodied creature, gentle, affectionate, and surpassing in beauty every other form of animal life. Why should anyone love a hog and hate a hen—why find ecstasy in the stench of the one, and disgust in the grace, handsome outlines, sprightliness and delicate coloring of the other?

From a business standpoint it is right that some people should keep pigs and others hens. It would be the rankest folly for the average western farmer to banish the hog from his premises and calculate to fill his place with hens. The general run of farmers will find it the part of wisdom to give poultry a subordinate position to hogs in the management of their business. But this does not explain why one should prefer

raising hogs at a loss to raising poultry at a profit—why when he is all prepared for making a success of poultry culture he will neglect all his opportunities in that direction, and devote the facilities which he has ready at hand for this purpose to an end for which they are very imperfectly adapted. Perhaps none of us can be entirely free from prejudice; but we expect a sensible man to be sensible, and not make a complete surrender of himself to his prejudices.

No Other Dust Box Needed.

If three or four inches of earth was scraped from the floor of the poultry house this fall and replaced with fine fresh earth from the garden, the dust-box can be dispensed with. The entire floor of the house thus becomes a dust-box. This is on the presumption that there is a scratching pen attached and that the floor of the main building is free from litter. If this addition of fresh material to the floor has not been made, the owner has omitted a part of the fall work of much importance.

Nature's Cholera Remedy.

"To my mind plenty of green food is the greatest cholera remedy on earth."
—G. L. Dorch in Poultry Tribune.

It Cures.

The easiest way to cure as well as to prevent the scaly leg is by the use of any good liquid lice killer. Apply it to the perches twice a week. If the disease is of long standing it cannot be cured in a month, but if the use of the mixture is continued, all evidences of the disease will disappear in time.

Did You Ever Make Money Easy?

MR. EDITOR:—I have read how Mr. C. E. B. made so much money in the Dish Washer business and I think I can beat him. I am very young yet and have had little experience in selling goods, but have made over eight hundred dollars in ten weeks selling Dish Washers. It is simply wonderful how easy it is to sell them. All you have to do is to show the ladies how they work and they cannot help but buy one. For the benefit of others I will state that I got my start from the Mound City Dish Washer Co., St. Louis, Mo. Write to them and they will send you full particulars.

I think I can clear over \$3,000 the coming year, and I am not going to let the opportunity pass. Try it and publish your success for the benefit of others.

Where the Eggs Come From.

The farms of the United States do not supply forty per cent of the eggs which are sold on the market. The greater proportion of the eggs are produced by people living in the villages. These people have nothing like the advantages for poultry culture that are afforded by the farms. Farmers do not take kindly to poultry raising. We believe the true explanation of this is that most farmers finding their hands full with the other work of the farm are averse to taking upon themselves any new tasks. Perhaps they would make just as much money, or more, by reserving a portion of the labor which is expended in other directions for the poultry yards; but they do not appear to think so, and the prospect is not favorable to any radical change in the percentages above named.

If farmers could be induced to give the hen a fair chance—to place her under conditions which would enable her to show her powers as a money maker, they would soon be led to hold her in higher esteem. If every farmer would this fall select out of his flock twenty hens, or preferably, would allow some one to do it for him whose experience with poultry peculiarly fitted him for the task, and would yard and house these hens to themselves and care for them as advised by those who make a business of poultry culture—if every farmer who has not made a test of such a character would do this as an experiment for one winter, they would learn something about chickens which they would find a way of turning largely to their advantage.

But we have no authority for finding fault with farmers for not adopting a better system with their poultry than that which prevails on a large proportion of the farms. This is their own affair. If they don't choose to improve their opportunities in this respect it is no business of ours. We do not charge it to lack of industry, or thrift, or intelligence; we know better than that. And yet it must be said that it is something of a mystery why this field is to such a large extent overlooked and neglected by those who are in the most favorable position for working it with the greatest profit.

Give the young stock a daily run on the range as late in the season as possible, but don't subject them to such exposure in freezing weather.

Pen No. 2.

In our opinion no breeder of thoroughbred poultry can advertise and sell eggs from a first and second pen without injury to his business. The buyer who contracts for and receives eggs from the second pen is in the great majority of cases disappointed. He calculated upon getting something better than he obtained. Perhaps he could get what he desires by sending another order to the same breeder and stipulating that the eggs shall come from pen No. 1. But this is what he does not do. He concludes that he has had all the stock he needs from that source, and his next order goes to some other breeder.

The writer recently inspected a lot of birds that were hatched from eggs obtained from one of the most widely known breeders in the west. These birds are a sorry lot. It seems that nothing could be added to them to make them worse than they are. The owner would be satisfied if there was one bird among them that was qualified for a breeder, for he bargained for eggs from pen No. 2, and did not expect to obtain anything of high value. Neither did he calculate that the stock would be of no value whatever. The man who sold these eggs is the possessor of some fine stock. We have positive knowledge of that fact, but his patron in this instance would not accept his offer to sell him the best bird in his flock for fifty cents. He simply will not have any further dealings with him, and his influence is likely to prevent others from so doing.

We are not discussing the right of a breeder to own and sell from a second pen. His right to do this is above question if he practices no concealment or deceit in the matter. As a usual thing the product of the pen may be better than that in the case above recited. It may be worth all that the owner asks for it, and more. But viewed simply in the light of personal interest, the keeping of pen No. 2 does not pay. It breeds disappointment and distrust, and is destructive of the good feeling which should exist between buyer and seller. It discredits the owner as a breeder, and lowers his reputation to the level of a second rate poultryman. It makes enemies, drives off business, and takes more dollars out of the pocket than it puts into them. In the long run pen No. 2 is a money loser every time.

In keeping hens with a view to getting winter eggs the main thing to be

kept in view is to make the hens comfortable. It matters not in what shape or in what manner the house is constructed so long as it gives comfort to the inmates. A hen that is in distress of any kind will not lay.

The Poultry Messenger has found its way to our desk and contains lots of good common sense. It is well edited and printed.—Barks and Cackles.

The Poultry Messenger, Aurelia, Iowa, is one of the western journals that deserves a large circulation.—Poultry Keeper.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props.,
Toledo, Ohio.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WEST & TRAU, wholesale druggists,
Toledo, Ohio.

WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN,
Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

A Good Windmill—Make It Yourself.

I saw one of the People's windmills which I saw recommended in your paper recently. It only cost me \$9.40 and is a splendid mill; my well is deep but it pumps it all right and with very little wind; the neighbors all like it, and as I am a kind of a carpenter, I have agreed to put up nine mills already, on which I can make a nice profit, and there are many others for whom I can put up mills this fall. I don't see why every farmer should not have a windmill when they can make it themselves for less than \$10; anyone can get diagrams and complete directions for making the mill by sending 18 two-cent stamps to pay postage, etc., to Francis Casey, St. Louis, Mo., and there can be dozens of them put up in any locality by anyone that has the energy to do so.

A FARMER.

FOR SALE.

1 Indian Game Cockerel.
3 Part. Cochin Pullets.

One Dollar Each.

HARRY EARLY, LISCOMB, IOWA.

Five Hundred to the Acre.

Mr. C. H. Wyckoff, of Croton, N. Y., has made a small fortune by means of poultry culture. At present his yearly profits are in the neighborhood of \$2,000. All that he owns has been made from poultry within the past fifteen years.

The plan upon which this man has finally settled down necessitates the keeping of 500 hens to the acre. His fowls for the most part are confined in yards. Though he is the owner of a moderate sized farm, he succeeds in obtaining more eggs both in winter and summer by yarding his hens and feeding according to a well tested system than by allowing them to run at large.

It has long been an accepted theory that not more than one hundred hens could be successfully kept on an acre of ground. And yet here is conclusive evidence of the fact that the theory is wrong. This man is no dreamer. He is not telling us what he believes it possible to do under favorable conditions, but is giving us facts founded on actual experience. It is the testimony of a successful poultryman setting forth the plan by which he achieved his success. If he can keep five-hundred hens on an acre the same thing can be done by others, and his experience is an encouragement for engaging in poultry culture on smaller areas of land than have heretofore been regarded necessary for the purpose.

Mr. Wyckoff's method of feeding is described in the Reliable Poultry Journal as follows:

"For morning meal he feeds the laying stock one bushel of corn and two bushels of oats ground up together pretty fine and to 200 pounds of this he adds 100 pounds of bran. These are mixed thoroughly, moistened with skimmed or sour milk or butter milk, whichever he happens to have, or with all three of them if he has them. To this he adds five or six pounds of beef scraps, (prepared; boiled meat will do as well), using this amount of meat to all the fowls he now has, 500 adults and 700 to 800 chicks. If he did not have the milk to use he would give them more meat.

He feeds about 7 o'clock, a. m., in summer time, and soon after daylight during the winter. He goes through the houses, feeds in long, ordinary troughs made by nailing two 6-inch boards together V-shape. After all have been fed what he thinks they will eat up clean and with a relish during fifteen or twenty minutes, he again passes through the houses and if some still seem to be hungry he gives them a little more, while if in other pens the

fowls have moved away, leaving food in the troughs, he removes it. He wants them to have all they will eat up readily, but does not want them to muss their food and cloy their appetites. Neither does he want them to follow him to the doors still hungry.

The noon meal consists of the green food to be fed for the day. During the winter months he feeds mangel beets and cabbage; during the summer time clover and kale. He raises these foods himself in sufficient quantities. He gets clover started as early as possible, and after it is 3 to 5 inches high feeds it until mid-summer weather burns it up; then he begins on kale, which renews itself and lasts him till freezing weather kills the plants. Kale looks like a cross between beet tops and pie plant. We do not know how better to describe it. The leaves look like pale green leaves, but are much larger. As the outer row of leaves are picked off new ones come out of the heart of the plant and keep on doing so until winter-killed. It is certainly a great boon to poultrymen. Mr. Wyckoff had when we were there a patch about 25 feet wide by 150 feet long, which gave him all he needed for his 1,200 fowls and chicks.

The mangel beets used by him are the large variety commonly fed to stock. They are used by him during the winter. He runs them through a cutter, slicing them up as fine as he can and feeding them in troughs. The cabbage is fed in much the same way. Even in the matter of green food, he aims to give his fowls only as much as they will eat up readily. He wants them to eat their fill, but has nothing for them to waste. In connection with the noon feed of green food some whole grain (not much of it) is scattered in the litter of their houses to "work" the fowls more or less.

The evening meal with Mr. Wyckoff's fowls consists of mixed whole grain as follows: Two bushels of wheat, two bushels of oats, two bushels of buckwheat and one bushel of corn. This is the proportion for summer feeding; in the winter time he increases the corn

to two bushels, thus using equal parts of the four grains. As a variety he feeds barley with the above if it is low priced. He gives them a full feed at night, all they will eat up clean. All grain is fed in litter. He prefers that they shall pick up at night all he feeds them so they will meet him in the morning with sharp appetites. During the winter time boiling water is used to moisten the soft food whenever milk is short. This swells the food before it enters the crop, but makes it barely warm, not hot. Hot, steaming food in winter time is a mistake, as it opens the pores of the skin unnaturally and subjects the fowls to sudden colds, with roup in prospect. Said Mr. Wyckoff, "I want the soft food as dry as I can and still say it is moistened. Sloppy, soft food of any kind loosens the bowels and brings on debility."

With Mr. Wyckoff facts are what count, not theories."

WELCH'S

Single-Comb BROWN LEGHORNS

Are fine as the finest. Stock for show and breeding purposes for sale at reasonable prices. Eggs \$1.50 per 15; \$2.75 per 30. Orders booked now for spring delivery. Address

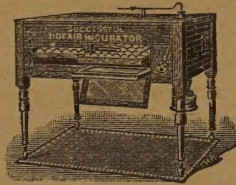
Wolverine Poultry Yard,
Jas. C. Welch, Prop. Lansing, Mich.

One Hundred

One Year Old Single-Comb WHITE Leghorn

Hens. One dollar each if taken at once. Are worth double the money.

W. J. SHIELDS,
Harmon's Creek, Pa.



WHERE OTHERS FAIL

the **SUCCESSFUL INCUBATORS** succeed. This is largely due to their new system of ventilation, new method of generating moisture and the positive action of the self regulator. These machines will please you, as will also the prices. All sold under a positive guaranty, which please to compare with others. Send 6 cents in stamps for catalogue and book on *Poultry Culture*. **DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 40, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Bone and Shell

FOR POULTRY.

Circular explaining benefit and how to feed it, and prices on lots of 100 lbs or more, delivered, freight paid at your railroad station, address

Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Mich.

Raw Bone has been proven by analysis to contain every part of an egg—White, Yolk and Shell. The lime of oyster shell furnishes shell material. The granulated size is for adult fowls; the meal is for chicks, and mixed with soft food. For

Follow Instructions.

Nothing displeases a patron more than to have directions which he has given in regard to crating and shipping disregarded by the seller. If no directions are given the seller will of course use his own judgment as to the manner of shipping, but he has no right to act in accordance with his own opinion when it conflicts with that of the person to whom the bird has been sold. He may have special reasons for directing that the bird shall be put in a coop of a designated pattern, or shipped by a given route, and he may not deem it necessary to explain why he wants this done. He takes it for granted that the seller will observe his wishes inasmuch as the bird is his property and that he will be responsible if any ill befalls it as a consequence of shipping in compliance with his orders.

No one takes kindly to having his plain directions in a matter of this kind disregarded, and the seller who thinks he knows so much better than his patron does not thus improve his chances of getting future orders from him.

Undesirable Patrons.

One of the unpleasant things connected with the breeding and selling of thoroughbred poultry is the all too frequent meeting with people who try to obtain something better for their money than they pay for. A breeder has sorted out from his flock a lot of cockerals which are not qualified for taking high rank in the show room. But they are the descendants of extra good stock and are too valuable to be sent off to market. He advertises them as fair breeding stock and offers them at a low figure. The advertisement brings an order accompanied by the cash. The letter goes on to say that the writer wants a bird of good color throughout, smooth, evenly serrated comb, solid earlobes (white or red, as the case may be), bright yellow legs, etc., etc. He don't want anything that will fall short of this description, as his flock is good, and he is determined to keep out of it the blood of inferior birds. It would take a very fine specimen to meet this description, and the receiver of the letter wonders why the order was sent to him when he made it plain that the birds he offered for sale were not that kind of stock. Did this patron misunderstand the meaning of the advertise-

ment? Perhaps so, but the chances are about 16 to 1 that he did not. He is merely practicing a very old dodge with a view to getting four or five dollars value for an outlay of one dollar. He calculates that the advertiser is overstocked, and will send him something considerably better than he pays for rather than make a return of the money. It is probably safe to say that two-thirds of The Messenger readers have had frequent encounters with this sort of a buyer. He is very apt to show up about this time of year, and we hope he will be sat down upon by everyone upon whom he attempts to play his little swindle.

Boiled Oats.

People who have lately been experimenting with boiled oats as a food for laying hens, claim that the general run of poultry keepers have no conception of its value for this purpose. A writer in the Poultry Herald says he has been feeding it freely the past summer, and it has been the means of furnishing him with more eggs than he has ever succeeded in obtaining before. Even during moulting, at which time he has learned to expect the egg yield to about cease altogether, the hens have furnished them in considerable quantities. The Messenger editor has come to regard an occasional feed of boiled wheat of advantage to both old and young stock, but has had no experience with boiled oats. Has any reader ever made use of oats in this form?

Every particle of whole grain which is obtained by the fowls in winter should be dug out of litter one bit at a time. This has been said so often that it seems like useless repetition to see it in the poultry papers, and yet the writer has positive knowledge of the fact that many people who keep poultry are regularly in the habit of throwing the grain

down on the bare ground, thus permitting the fowls to gulp down the entire meal within the space of a minute or two

List of Winnings

Of the Mansfield Poultry Company at the Chippewa County Fair, Wisconsin, fall of 1896. Over 200 pairs of birds on exhibition; Franklin Benner, of Minneapolis, Judge:

White Plymouth Rocks, 1st on fowls 1st on chicks; S. C. W. Leghorns, 1st on fowls and 1st and 2nd on chicks; Silver Laced Wyandottes, 1st on fowls and 3rd on chicks; Light Brahmas, 1st on fowls and 1st on chicks; Black Langshans, 1st on fowls and 1st on chicks; Houdans, 1st fowls; Pekin Ducks, Toulouse Geese, 1st and 2nd on old and young; Bronze Turkeys, 1st and 2nd on old and young.

The Northwestern Wisconsin Fair called together nearly 500 pairs of birds many of which had this year been on exhibition at the state fairs of Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. Our winnings at this great show were as follows:

Silver Laced Wyandottes, 1st on fowls 3rd on chicks; Light Brahmas, 2nd on fowls; S. C. W. Leghorns, 2nd on fowls 2nd on chicks; White Plymouth Rocks, 2nd on fowls; Houdans, 2nd on fowls; Pekin Ducks, 2nd on old 1st on young; Toulouse Geese, 3rd on old 3rd on young; Bronze Turkeys, 3rd on old 2nd on young

MANSFIELD POULTRY CO.,

Chippewa Falls, Wis.

As Good as the Best.

Buff Leghorns

Buff Cochins

Black Langshans

Barred Ply. Rocks

What Do You Want?

And how much are you prepared to pay for it? I can suit you both in prices and quality of stock.

M. PARROTT,

Aurelia, Iowa.





HATCH

CHICKS

with the machine that is sold under a guaranty to produce the greatest possible percentage of live ones from a given number of fertile eggs. 12 years of success to the credit of

THE RELIABLE INCUBATOR AND BROODER

used with entire success in every State in the Union and many foreign countries. All about their good qualities and much more of interest to poultrymen in our Book on Incubation and Poultry. Send ten cents for it...

Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., Quincy, Ills.

From Summer to Winter Feed.

When the young stock is taken off the range and confined in close quarters in the yards, and, during bad days, within the houses, the change is very liable to bring on trouble unless the feeding is done with judgment. The sudden restriction of their liberty, and the loss of the varied diet to which they have been accustomed, opens the way to derangements of the digestive organs, and, in the absence of proper attention, leads to serious sickness in the flock.

Many promising flocks of pullets are made worthless for the winter by over-feeding during the first few days after they are collected from the range and placed in the yards. This writer is ready to admit that in past years he has sadly erred in that manner. The restlessness of the pullets in their new quarters seemed to call for a liberal allowance of food, as they were thereby rendered more quiet and apparently more contented. But in a few days the swelled crops, and the general mopish condition of a large percent of the flock convinced us that we had made a costly mistake. We have learned not to make that kind of a mistake any more, and we can conduct our young stock through this change without any fear of the troubles above described.

Feed sparingly for the first few days after yarding. This does not mean that the birds should be kept ravenously hungry, but they should not be allowed to fill their crops with concentrated food early in the day. Feed vegetable matter freely. Though late in the fall, there is yet green grass on the sheltered places about the range, and this has composed a large proportion of their daily ration. See that they have some form of vegetable food to take its place, thus gradually carrying them over the change from the summer and fall, to the winter system of treatment.

Nobody would take a horse off of pasture, confine it to the stable on an exclusive grain ration, and expect to maintain it in a condition of health and thrift. Hay, fodder, straw, or some form of "long feed" is always provided the animal. The consequences of depriving fowls of food of a kindred nature will not be so serious as in the case of the horse, but it is essential to their health, particularly in the interval above referred to. If nothing better is

at hand throw an armful of clover hay in the scratching pen once a day, though this is an indifferent substitute for a daily feed of turnips, beets or cabbage.

A Good Ready.

Get the birds in good laying condition before the cold weather of winter sets in. Feed egg producing food, confine them under shelter during the raw fall days, and keep them at work. Have the flocks well sorted as to size, and don't have a lot of cockerels in the same house with the hens. Provide a separate place for the cockerels which you intend to sell for breeders next spring. The market stock should all be gone from the place by this time, unless you have something very choice which you are keeping back for a definite purpose. But don't give a place to any of this stock in the same quarters with the laying hens. The layers should have the warmest house on the premises, and they should not be crowded.

Winners That Don't Win.

What is destined to be the prize winner of the flock is most likely to be found in some lank, awkward looking cockerel which at the present time looks like anything else than a prize winner. The breeder who is "on to his job" is not deceived in regard to his value, but he would command but little respect from one who is new to the business. The cockerel which shapes up first, and crows the earliest and the loudest is always the coming prize winner in the opinion of the beginner. And in nine

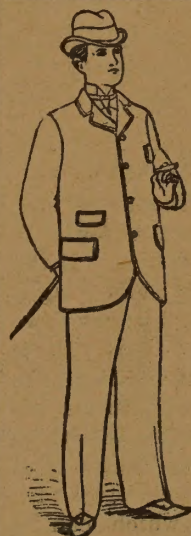
cases out of ten this is the bird that is invited to appear at the owner's Christmas dinner, while what was a very mean looking specimen in November has come grandly to the front and is proudly wearing the decorations of the show room.

Marching to the Front.

The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of the Des Moines Incubator Company, appearing in another column. The Western Garden, of Des Moines, Iowa, pays this concern a very high compliment, in part as follows:

"Indications are plain that the "Successful" Incubator is headed straight for the front and if preference will give way to beautiful appearance and excellent hatching qualities this machine is sure to take a front seat in that rank at a very early date.

Every new feature known to be of value to an egg hatching apparatus, and also several new and important ideas, has been incorporated in the new style "Successful," and the outlook for its promoters is flattering indeed. The Des Moines Incubator Company is composed of reliable and substantial business men in whom our readers can place their entire confidence, and feel assured of being dealt with in an honorable business-like manner." We may add: if you are in the market for a good Incubator it will pay to send for a copy of their fine catalogue. Address as per number.



SUIT, \$4.98

TAILOR-MADE CLOTHING

AN ALL-WOOL MELTON SUIT

Round or square corners, like cut, lining and trimming first class, fully guaranteed, for only \$4.98.

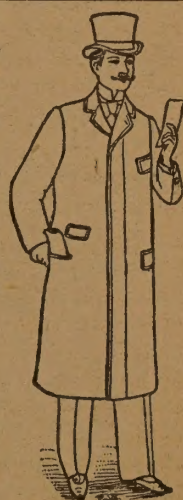
AN ALL-WOOL MELTON OVERCOAT,

Fly front, workmanship and goods first-class and fully guaranteed for only \$4.98.

SPECIAL OFFER.

Cut this out and return to us with measure and \$1.00 and either Suit or Overcoat will be sent to your nearest express office subject to examination C. O. D. for \$3.98. Examine the goods, and if found as represented pay the express agent \$3.98, and keep them. If not as represented, have the agent to return them to us and your dollar will be refunded.

We can fit anybody. Sample card of Clothing. Overcoats, Cloaks, Capes and Mackintoshes free. Send two cents to help pay postage.



OVERCOAT, \$4.98

CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO.,
209 to 219 So. Clinton St., CHICAGO, ILL.

The Best Breed.

The question is often asked as to which is the best (most profitable) breed and it is one which has never yet been answered satisfactorily. Every one must decide for himself, with special reference to his standing or proposed accommodations, soil, climate and individual preferences. When the question is put to me as to which is the best breed I always reply: "That breed is the best, for you, which you like the best." Any breed will pay its keep and leave a profit if you have given it proper care and attention. In days gone by when the "fever" first took hold of me I kept Light Brahmas; could hardly induce them to lay an egg so sold them all, and, going to the other extreme, bought some Brown Leghorns. They used to shell out the eggs at a great rate in summer time but they could not be induced to do so in winter. I blamed the breed (not myself, as I should have done), and sold the Leghorns. Since those days I have "cut my wisdom teeth," and am conceited enough to think I could handle any variety of fowls with success.

There are many breeds; some are better for flesh than others, while others are great layers, and there are those which unite both properties. Most of these qualities lie at the pleasure of the poultryman or woman; fowls after all being mere machines and manageable as such. Given a healthy vigorous flock of fowls and the results ALL depend upon the one handling them. The greatest accomplishment attainable by anyone is to thoroughly understand the business from which he gets his living.

In these days of prolific (also prolix) poultry literature it is useless here to enter into a description of even one or two of the standard varieties, and for a pen picture of what a Light Brahma say does not resemble more than slightly would advise the novice to hunt up a stock cut in some poultry paper labeled "Bred and owned by Tom Jones, of Jonesville."

G. A. C. CLARKE.

Keep Too Many Fowls.

Farmers generally have too many fowls. If they kept less in numbers, and better in quality, it would mean less cost and better returns. Where a farmer will not erect large runs for poultry, or will not colonize them in

flocks several acres apart, he should not keep over twenty-five in a flock. Twenty-five good hens in a flock will give better returns than one hundred would.

Farmers also make a mistake by having fowls of all ages in their flocks. Pullets, yearlings, two, three and four-year old hens are in the same family. Can one expect good results from such work? The writer knew a farmer who kept nothing but pullets. In March and April he bred from the pullets and as soon as the young stock got to laying, off went the heads of the older birds, and they were sent to market. But we think a fowl's usefulness does not end until she has had her second moult. A great many run the hens up until they are about going into their second moult, when they dispose of them for roasting purposes. But the main part is not to have large flocks. Small families always do best.—Homestead.

The New Buffs.

The Buff Rocks and the Buff Wyandottes are not buff as the standard description requires they should be. The very best birds of these new breeds have feathers in their plumage which their owners would very much like to get rid of. Those people who are advertising solid Buff Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks have a curious idea of business. A very small pen of such fowls as they describe would easily sell for a thousand dollars, and yet the owners of these precious specimens seem to be obliged to hawk them about over the country in order to get rid of them at two or three dollars apiece. These varieties will be dressed up in a suit of even buff feathers in the course of years, but time for their appearance in such a suit is not yet.

Roomy Feeding Troughs.

The feeding trough should be long enough to enable all the fowls to eat from it without crowding. If the interior arrangement of the building is such as not to permit of this, have two troughs placed a few feet apart. There are always some hens in the house that will not rush in and crowd with the balance of the flock for their share of the feed, but will timidly stand apart from the others and content themselves with the few stray morsels which can be picked up from the ground. These hens will go hungry rather than risk a combat with their more self-assertive asso-

ciates in the attempt to obtain their proportion of the feed. A hen that does not eat will not lay, and such hens will be a dead expense to the owner during the winter if they are allowed to go continually hungry. Plenty of trough room will tend to prevent this, as it will enable them to reach the feed with less danger of punishment. A 6-inch board nailed to the two ends of the trough and rising perpendicularly from its center will compel the fowls to feed from both sides without getting into it with their feet, and will effect a considerable saving of room.

The beautiful catalogue of Incubators, Brooders, etc., of the Von Culin Incubator Co., surpasses anything they have ever gotten out, except the wonderful Simplicity Hatcher, which they send to all who wish it on trial without asking you to pay them a cent until after you try it. This is a fact and no catch about it. Their large beautiful catalogue will tell you all about it, and much about the poultry business and what can be made out of it. Almost every page is handsomely illustrated. Send five cents to pay postage to Von Culin Incubator Co., Box 295, Delaware City, Delaware.

For Sale! BARRED — WHITE Fly. Rocks

Black Langshans, Single C. Brown Leghorns, White Holland Turkeys and

BELGIUM HARES

Send for description and prices, mentioning this paper.

WM. MICHAEL. - Plain City, Ohio

MONEY IN HENS.

There's Lots of it.
Our great Poultry Book tells how to get it out. It's sensible and practical. Sent free to every one sending five two-cent stamps for a trial 3 month's subscription to



FARM NEWS—the best general farm paper published. A great paper and a great book. Address
FARM NEWS,
Mention this Paper. **SPRINGFIELD, O.**

POULTRY DISEASES The most valuable treatise on Roup, Sorehead, diphtheric sore throat, Canker mouth, Catarrh, etc., ever written. **Absolutely free.** Send 3 cents in stamps to pay postage.
WALTER KIRBY & CO., Marietta, O.

It Should Be Very Warm.

If the horse or cow barn is well boarded up with good stock boards and the joints properly battened, it is called a warm barn. And so it is; it is warm enough for the class of stock it is intended to shelter. But a building constructed in that manner will not be a warm poultry house without the addition of something else for keeping out the cold. Many people do not rightly understand what is meant when they are admonished to make the poultry house warm. If they make it as warm as the horse barn they think they have done all that is required.

The disappointment in regard to winter eggs is more often due to a cold poultry house than to improper feeding. The most faultless system of feeding will not bring the eggs if the building is one which does not give comfort to the fowls. And let it be understood that a single walled house, without a lining of paper or some similar material, will not in this northern climate give the warmth and comfort necessary to the proper housing of laying hens in winter. The building should be as snug and tight as good lumber, paper and close fitting window sash can make it. No work which you can do with that object in view will be wasted. Don't be afraid of smothering the hens. Don't bother with ventilators. The windows may be opened and the fresh air and warm sunshine permitted to stream in freely during the day, but be prepared to blanket the flock as closely as it is possible for you to do from the outside temperature of a cold winter night. You will thus in a measure atone for a good many errors of feeding to which you have heretofore attributed all your ill success in the winter management of your poultry.

Litter for the Scratching Pen.

Chaff or straw is the best material for the scratching pen. The straw will be in a better condition for the purpose if it is first run through a cutter and reduced to lengths of about four inches. Leaves are often recommended for the scratching pen, but we are not partial to them, as they pack very tightly, and later on are broken to pieces and leave the floor covered with a lot of powdery material which mixes with the earth and is hard to remove. The objection to sawdust is that much of it is taken

into the crops of the fowls with the food and often leads to sickness of a serious nature. On the whole we are of the opinion that nothing better can be used for scratching pen litter than clean wheat or oat straw.

Unbiased Testimony.

People expect, as a matter of course, that the poultry papers will devote much space to the hen as a money maker. It is supposed that that is what the poultry papers are for, and it is popularly believed that they are not always as careful as they ought to be to keep a safe distance from the point of exaggeration. But here are a few lines cut out from an article in the Iowa Homestead, and penned by one who stands among the foremost agricultural writers of the west, Mr. J. R. Sage:

"The average American hen produces ten dozen eggs a year. The best breeds, with good treatment, yield much better returns than that, but even the average hen pays a liberal profit above cost of keeping. In fact, the hen is the most profitable animal on the farm, relatively to the cost of maintenance."

Moody's Great Bible Class.

Dwight L. Moody, the famous evangelist, has made a contract with the Ladies' Home Journal, by which he will conduct in that magazine a series of popular Bible studies in the form of a great National Bible Class. It will be made into a regular and permanent department of the Journal, and is to be known as "Mr. Moody's Bible Class." The evangelist will personally lead his unique "Bible Class" each month in the exposition of some of the vital Bible truths, and will naturally appeal to a large circle of readers.

BREEDERS' CARDS.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. HIGH grade birds at reasonable prices. Score card by Shellarbarger after November 17th. Warren B. Davis, Sutherland, Ia.

VILLA PARK POULTRY YARDS. Black Minorcas and Buff Leghorns. Eggs reduced to \$1.00 per 13. Stock for sale at all times. Satisfaction guaranteed. Walter Harned, Trenton, N. J.

BLACK BREASTED RED GAME Bantams (Spaulding strain) will close out at greatly reduced prices. Also Lt. Brahmas and Houdans for sale or exchange for standard bred Ply. Rocks. E. and M. Hissong, Washington, Iowa.

WHITE FACED BLK. SPANISH. I have bred them for 32 years. Circular and my photograph free. John Bennett, Sunman, Ripley co. Indiana.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS. Cockerels \$1 each; pullets 75 cts. Eggs 4 cts each. A. M. Chamberlain, Aurelia, Iowa.

P. E. TWINING, KIPTON, OHIO. (Lorain county.) Breeder of high class poultry of leading varieties. Send for catalogue.

JOHN P. ROWLEY, JORDAN, N. Y. Breeder of the Best Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. Stock for sale. Eggs \$1 for 13.

FREDERICK E. COLEMAN, Manchester Green, Conn., breeder of Barred Ply. Rocks exclusively. Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13; \$2 per 26. Poultry journal one year free with every order. Please mention MESSENGER.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Eggs 15 for 75 cents, M. M. Garing, Montezuma, Iowa.

WILLIS WHINERY, SALEM, O., breeder of 20 varieties of full blood poultry. Eggs \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Write for what you want

SEND TO JOE FARMER, FLUSHING, Ohio, for circular of Choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs.

BLACK MINORCAS, WINNERS at two banner shows, Cleveland and Pittsburg, winning eight premiums and two specials on eight entries at Pittsburg show. Fine breeding cockerels at reasonable prices. Eggs in season. Write for circular. Robert Mairet, Akron, Ohio.

IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC BLK and White Langshans. E. A. R., sure roup cure. A. H. Ascher, Princeton, Ill.

L. BRAHMAS, B. JAVA, R. C. B. Leghorns, from high scoring birds. Eggs \$1.25 per 15. Geo. Hammett, Sumner, Bremer county, Iowa.

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS exclusively. Be sure and send for my illustrated circular—it is free. W. F. Metz, Ionia, Michigan.

PANSY POULTRY FARM, PAN- sy, Pa. Thirteen varieties of land and water fowls. Send stamp for circular.

MRS. M. A. SMITH, GILMAN, Iowa., has gilt edge stock of Black and White Langshans. Egg circular free.

GREAT BIG LIGHT BRAHMAS, Eggs and stock for sale in season at hard time prices. Our stock will suit you. L. M. Rowe, Galva, Iowa.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Conger, Hawkins, Lawton's best strains. Write me before you buy. J. D. Stevenson, Killbuck, O.

W. E. BEARD, DE WITT, IOWA, breeder and mater of Silver Wyandottes—twelfth year. Stock and eggs for sale in season.

The Poultry Messenger.

AND

Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the 15th of every month by
The Messenger Company
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

If the penalty for selling decayed eggs were a heavy fine, or the penitentiary, a vast crowd of people who don't know how to tell a good egg from a bad one, would very speedily discover a way to do it. Knowledge along this line will not undergo much improvement so long as there is an advantage in ignorance. People who would be horrified if accused of an intention to defraud, will sell decayed eggs and try very hard not to know it if it pays better than to learn how to avoid doing it.

All of the people who have made a failure of the poultry business hold to the belief that they could make a success of it if they had the chance to try again. They see the mistakes they made, and are generally very nearly correct in their judgment as to the cause of their failure. And the most of these people know that they would have done better if they had been more willing to serve as apprentices, and not sought to be foreman of the shop, and a leader among older hands at the business.

Poultrymen should be honest and furnish the very best stock which reasonable care, study and labor will enable them to produce. But the man who is so extremely honest that he will sell nothing except what is absolutely free from defect, will be past enjoying the rewards of his honesty before reaching the point of perfection for which he is aiming. Sell when you have assured yourself that you know what constitutes a first-class bird, and don't waste a lifetime in trying to accomplish impossibilities.

The man who starts into the poultry business with the expectation of getting rich is likely to go out of it with less money than he began with. His eagerness to make money fast will cause him to be impatient with slow and steady gains, and drive him into expensive

and ill-judged experiments. Very few people get rich by means of poultry culture. There is danger in looking upon it as that kind of a business.

"Get out of the ruts," exclaims a writer in one of our exchanges. That sounds like good advice, but before we endorse it we would like to know more about the ruts referred to. If success is attending you as you travel along the well worn ruts, you had better not be in too much of a hurry to get out of them. A good rut in the road of experience affords much easier and safer going to most of us than the trackless surface of the open country. Many a driver has met with a disastrous breakdown in consequence of abandoning the ruts made by those who have gone over the road before him.

Editor Curtis, of the Reliable Poultry Journal, cannot see any crime in plucking objectionable feathers from the plumage of show birds. Mr. Hewes thinks that way too, and a few months ago said so in an article over his own signature in the above named journal, and though he has been unmercifully belabored for saying it, he still sticks to it. The Messenger ventures to say that ninety-nine breeders out of a hundred will pluck the objectionable feathers. This is the truth of the matter, let the outcry be what it may. The good people who are horrified at the sin of it don't need to do it if they don't want to

There is always more merit in the breed than in the man who condemns it as worthless.

The judge who glosses over the defects of our birds and gives them a better standing in the show room than they are justly entitled to, has done us just the opposite of a friendly service. He has made us believe that we are the owners of something better than the facts of the case warrant, and has placed us in a position to get beautifully left on some future occasion where the judging is fairly and impartially done. The best as well as the kindest judge is he who "hews to the line," and shows no favors.

Those who speak in a depreciatory manner of the score card are generally people who have nothing to sell which would look well on the score card. It is understood that the score card does

not always tell the exact truth, but the majority of buyers would rather trust to it than to the word of some unknown breeder. The man who pretentiously makes a virtue of selling unscored stock does not thereby recommend himself to the class of buyers whose good opinion it will pay him to cultivate.

The individual who sells eggs very often does better than he agrees—he puts a few more eggs in the package than he needs to, and the stock that is hatched therefrom turns out to be a little better than described. There are a good many poultryman of this stripe, as pretty nearly everyone who has done much buying has found out. The people who complain of general dishonesty among poultrymen have from choice or accident mixed in a very bad crowd, or else have had very little dealing with the people who follow this business.

Five Buff Wyandotte pullets, of American breeding, recently sold in England for \$250. Don't be too quick to bestow your sympathy upon the purchaser. He probably knew what he was about, and it is not at all likely that he needs it.

The poultryman puts himself on exhibition when he sends his stock to the poultry shows. He advertises himself through his birds. He often advertises himself in a way directly contrary to his desires. Only regular visitors at the shows know how frequently men and women advertise themselves in that way as very honest but very ignorant of the business in which they are engaged.

You can always please the man who knows a good bird when he sees it, and stands ready to pay \$5 or \$10 for what he wants. This man is easier to please than the one who thinks that the best bird that was ever raised was not worth more than a dollar. The wise thing to do is to rear good birds, and try to establish a trade among those who are sensible of their value.

People ought not request sample copies of a paper sent to them until they have learned to write their name and address. It is a useless waste of stamps and besides is very hard on the editorial waste basket. The editor of a chicken paper just delights in puzzles of this kind, but he hates to get hold of one that knocks him out.

THE WESTERN Fruit Grower.

ELMER BRINTNALL, Editor,
Winthrop, Iowa.

All communications for this department should be sent to the above address.

Strawberry Plants Free.

We are anxious to add several thousand new subscribers to our list before April 1st, 1897, and as a means to that end make the following offer: For the first, second and third largest list we will deliver free of charge 1000, 500 and 250 strawberry plants of the following varieties, viz: Warfield, Michels Early, Haverland, Crescent, Enhance. Send to us for special terms to agents.

Topping Raspberry Canes.

There is a great difference of opinion and much discussion in horticultural journals regarding the benefit of topping growing raspberry plants. Those who make a practice of topping say that when so treated the canes become bushy and self supporting and do not need the stakes which those not topped require. Those who allow the canes to grow as they will, trim them off in the winter or early spring while yet dormant, and claim larger fruit as a consequence. Our own observation has been that for marketing purposes the pinching off plan is the best. If you don't get fruit quite as large you will get more quarts, and that is what the grower is after. It is an easy matter for anyone to make a test of the two plans by trying a row of plants under each system. If all you want is fine fruit you will get larger berries from your unbranched canes as there will be fewer berries for the plants to mature. Those who desire to try the topping process should pinch off the tops as soon as they reach a certain height, say eighteen inches or two feet, and not wait until they get beyond that and then cut them back. This will force out the side shoots the whole length of the cane, the topmost shoots ascending so that by the time growth stops the plant will be from three to five feet high. If the canes are all pinched off at the same height from the ground your bushes will all be about the same in the fall, and will appear much better

than if pinched off in a haphazard manner, as some that I have seen. If the canes are permitted to get three or four feet high before topping there will be but few side shoots and all at the extreme point, making the cane top heavy and requiring a support to prevent blowing over. The plants are not partial to a damp soil, but they do like a rich one, which promotes growth and early ripening of the wood, and insures safe wintering.

The Ohio experimental station says of the King Red Raspberry: "It is fine indeed. Large, firm, beautiful color and prolific. It is far ahead of Loudon or Miller."

From now until next spring the fruit grower either for market or pleasure will have to do the larger portion of his work with his brain, in preparing and maturing his plans for next seasons duties.

If you have not already done so, put a heavy mulch of strawy manure between the strawberry rows, and cover the rows with straw or slough hay. The hay will give the best satisfaction, as it will not blow around as much as the straw, and is more likely to be free from weed seeds.

It may be a little late to say anything about planting blackcap raspberries, but here are a few points which it will be well to keep in mind for next season: They are propagated by burying the tips, and when the cane is cut off the eye is on the opposite end of the cutting beyond the new roots. When the stalk is planted above ground the young shoot is covered deeply and often smothered. The cane should be placed underground and the eye just beneath well mellowed soil. If you grow your own plants it is best to wait until the new shoots are five or six inches high before transplanting, as you can then be sure of strong plants and no vacant places in the row.

Does your ledger show a balance on the profit side, and if not the coming winter is a good time to look over the work of the past season and see where you were at fault and what is necessary to remedy it. Was it the weather, or was it some neglect of your own? Were the berries large, and lots of them, or were they little scrawny things which you could neither use nor give

away? Were the varieties you planted suited to your locality, or did you plant a large number without first testing them? Did you try any commercial fertilizer, and did it pay? These are all important questions, and the successful fruit-grower must be able to give a definite answer to them.

The heeling in of fruit trees should be a complete covering of them. They do not endure exposure of the top to dry from the sweeping western winds.

41 LBS. Best Granulated SUGAR \$1.00

We are selling 41 lbs. of the best Granulated Sugar for \$1.00, and everything in the grocery line at "rock bottom" prices. We are the **Only Supply House that Sell to Consumers at Strictly Wholesale Prices**, which is clearly proven when we sell 41 lbs. best granulated sugar \$1.00. We ship these goods anywhere to anybody and guarantee satisfaction. **Send No Money**, but cut this out and send for full particulars enclosing two cents in stamps to **CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO., 215 to 219 So. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill.**

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For Fall Setting.

100 Strawberry Plants for \$1.20 postpaid.

100 Cuthbert Rasp. Plants 75c
100 Turner Rasp. Plants 75c.
100 Snyder Blackberry Plants 90c
1000 " " " \$7.00

Black Walnut Trees

One to three feet, 8c each; \$5.00 per hundred. Send for price list for spring of 1897.

ELMER BRINTNALL,
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Choice Winter Flowering BULBS.

Sent By Mail Postpaid.

3 Hyacinths, 6 Tulips, 5 Narcissus, 10 Spanish Iris, 10 Crocus, 10 Freecias, 10 Oxalis, all different colors, the 50 for

50 CENTS.

MY CATALOGUE, elegantly illustrated, of all kinds of Plants and Bulbs, for Fall Planting and Winter Blooming, is now ready and will be mailed free to all who apply. Write for it at once. Address,

MRS. ELLA V. BAINES,
Springfield, Ohio.

POULTRY SHOWS.

Central Michigan Poultry and Pet Stock Association, Dec., 15 to 18. I. K. Felch, judge; James C. Welch, sec'y.

Iowa State Poultry Show, Creston, Iowa, Dec., 28 to Jan., 2; W. S. Russell and F. H. Shellabarger, judges; J. M. Scurr, secretary.

Northwestern Illinois Poultry Association, Lanark, Illinois, January 4 to 9; F. H. Shellabarger, judge; E. C. Dick, secretary.

Eastern Iowa Poultry Association, Davenport, Iowa, January 18 to 22; W. S. Russell, judge; H. C. Goettsch, sec'y.

Northern Illinois Poultry Association, Rockford, Illinois, January 19 to 23. Chas McClave, judge; A. H. Currier, secretary.

Oneonto Poultry Association, Oneonto, New York, November 23 to 26; S. E. Snedeker, secretary.

Mansfield Poultry Association, Mansfield, Ohio, December 30 to January 2; H. A. Bridge, judge; Geo. B. Weatherby, secretary.

Des Moines Valley Poultry Association, Ottumwa, Iowa, November 17 to 21; Russell, judge; A D Kroeger, secretary.

Rock River Valley Poultry Association, Dixon, Ill., Dec. 3, 4 and 5. M. Cookson, secretary; F. H. Shellabarger, judge.

Inter State Poultry Show, Falls City, Neb., Dec. 1 to 5; R. Horrocks, secretary; W. S. Russell, judge.

La Crosse Poultry Association, La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 1 to 6; E. H. Hoffman, secretary; C. A. Emry, judge.

South Platte Poultry Show, Geneva, Neb., Dec. 2, 3 and 4; Levi L. Fisher, secretary; L. P. Harris, judge.

Rock River Poultry Association, Prophetstown, Ill. Dec. 7 to 12; W. W. Noyes, secretary; Russell, judge.

Western Illinois Poultry Association, Rock Island, Illinois, November 24 to 29; C. F. Kammerer, secretary; D. T. Heimlich, judge.

Northern Iowa Poultry Association, Ackley, Iowa, January 2 to 8; D. T. Heimlich, judge; E. E. Hersey, sec'y.

Bloomington Poultry Show, Bloomington, Illinois; December 16 to 19; F. H. Shellabarger, judge; S S Noble, corresponding secretary; J D Shipley, secretary of show.

Mid-Continental Poultry Show, Kansas City, Missouri, December 22 to 29. F M Slutz, secretary.

Kansas State Show, Topeka, Kansas, January 4 to 9; C H Rhodes, judge; D A Wise, secretary.

National Fanciers' Association, Chicago, Illinois, January 25 to 29. B N Pierce and Theo. Hewes, poultry judges; Joseph Gavin, pigeon judge; A E Brown, secretary, Morgan Park, Illinois.

The Grain King

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MOST MODERN GRINDER ON THE MARKET.

RESULT OF MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

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IN THIS NEW GRAIN KING GRINDER we offer to the farmers and feeders of the United States, the only sweep grinder manufactured that will handle ear corn as well as all kinds of small grain with equal results. OUR GRINDERS have been known in many parts of the United States for years, and we can say to you that the GRAIN KING has no rival. This machine is constructed on an entirely new and different plan than any other mill manufactured. It combines all the advantages that are found in any other machine and has its own peculiar and advantageous construction that cannot be duplicated by other manufacturers. **CONSTRUCTION.**—Made with cross-cut, screw-feed, cast steel hardened burrs. The **FEED BOX** is made of iron and so constructed in a cylindrical shape that it has the most possible strength for its weight and when bolted to the hard wood frame below and the main burr above is very compact, symmetrical and above all strong and durable. It comes up high around the point on the burrs where the grain is discharged and prevents the action of the wind and weather on the meal. It has a drop door in front which when opened answers as a scoop board in shoveling out the meal. The **COB BREAKER** is so arranged that it breaks the cob up in pieces fit for the upper or cob burrs, requiring only a small amount of power. The **COARSE** or **COB BURRS** are the upper set which do the coarse grinding and prepare the cob for the set of fine burrs. The **FINE** or **SMALL GRAIN BURRS** are the lower set of burrs and are the ones that do the fine or finished grinding. These burrs are cast steel hardened and so hard that they cannot be cut or drilled and consequently have long life which enables us to give the warrantee that we do. **CROSS-CUT SCREW FEED.**—This is the latest principle that has been put on the market in the shape of a grinder. The latest improved flat burrs are mostly cut with a screw shaped tooth and are therefore reasonable fast but have no force other than this to push the grain through. All cone shaped or large burr mills except the GRAIN KING depend entirely on the weight of the grain to force it through the burrs. The GRAIN KING however by means of an entirely new and patented process of construction is so built that it has the forcescrew feed and also the weight of the grain to force it through the burrs. Thus we are able to construct the burrs with fine teeth so that they will do fine work and at the same time fast work. **WHAT OTHER MILL** will grind ear corn successfully at a rate of from 12 to 20 bushels per hour and the same mill handle such small grain as rye, wheat, barley etc., at from 8 to 14 bushels per hour? This is what this mill will do and do it well. **ADJUSTMENT.**—The pressure on the burrs is from a ball and socket joint and is therefore perfectly even and with no cramp and uneven strain. **TAKING UP THE WEAR** is done by a novel and effective incline plane device so that as the burrs wear they can be adjusted quickly and effectively. The **HOPPER** is large and substantial. The **SWEEP** is truss built, light and strong and so arranged that the team carries the outer end and thus takes all strain and uneven cramp off from the mill, making a perfectly even draft. It is **EASILY** staked to the ground and when once there properly staked, is there to stay.

WARRANTEE.—We warrant the GRAIN KING to grind ear corn soft or hard at from 12 to 15 bushels per hour—to grind oats or any other small grain mixed—to grind shelled corn, wheat, barley, rye and other small grain mixed or separately—to grind from 9 to 14 bushels of small or mixed grain for hog feed per hour according to the degree of fineness—to grind shelled corn for stock feeding from 15 to 20 bushels per hour. We warrant the GRAIN KING to do first class grinding for 5 years from date of purchase and furnish free of charge any parts wearing out inside of this time. We warrant the GRAIN KING against all imperfections in workmanship and material and will furnish defective parts free of charge at any time.

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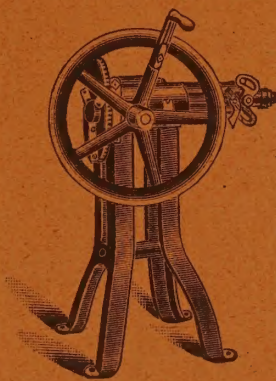
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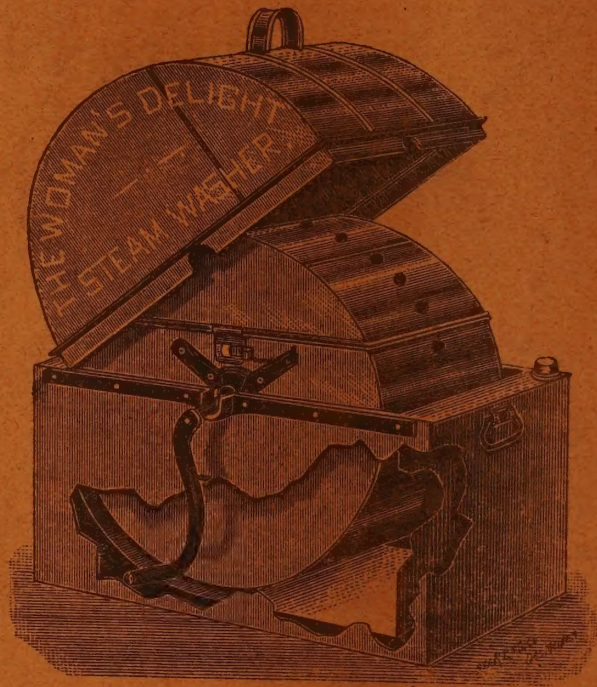
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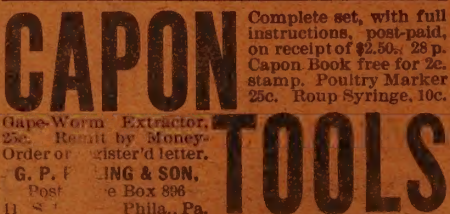
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